



Exploration of Accreditation for State and Local Public Health Agencies

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Accreditation Definition

“The periodic issuance of credentials or endorsements to organizations that meet a specified set of performance standards.”

Novick and Mays, Public Health Administration

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Interest in Accreditation

- ✦ 2002 IOM Recommendation
- ✦ CDC's Future Initiative
- ✦ RWJF
- ✦ NACCHO resolution
- ✦ NALBOH resolution
- ✦ Multiple states w/ standards or accreditation

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2002 IOM Report

The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century

“...a national commission (should) consider if an accreditation system would be useful for improving and building state and local public health agency capacity.”

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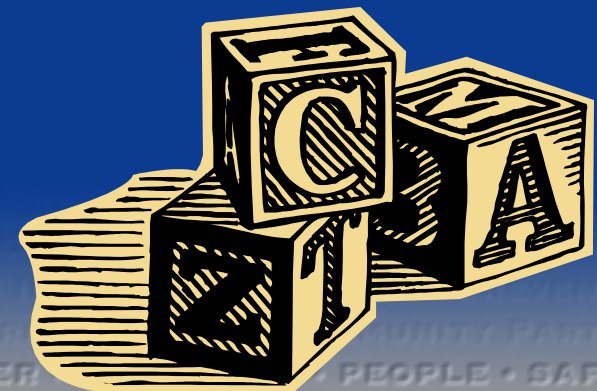
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Building Blocks for Accreditation



- ◆ National Public Health Performance Standards
- ◆ NACCHO Operational Definition of a Local Public Health Agency
- ◆ Public Health Ready
- ◆ State activities in accreditation and standards
- ◆ Accreditation in other sectors



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Essential Public Health Services

1. Monitor health status
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems
3. Inform and educate
4. Mobilize communities to address health problems
5. Develop policies and plans
6. Enforce laws and regulations
7. Link people to needed health services
8. Assure a competent health services workforce
9. Evaluate health services
10. Conduct research for new innovations

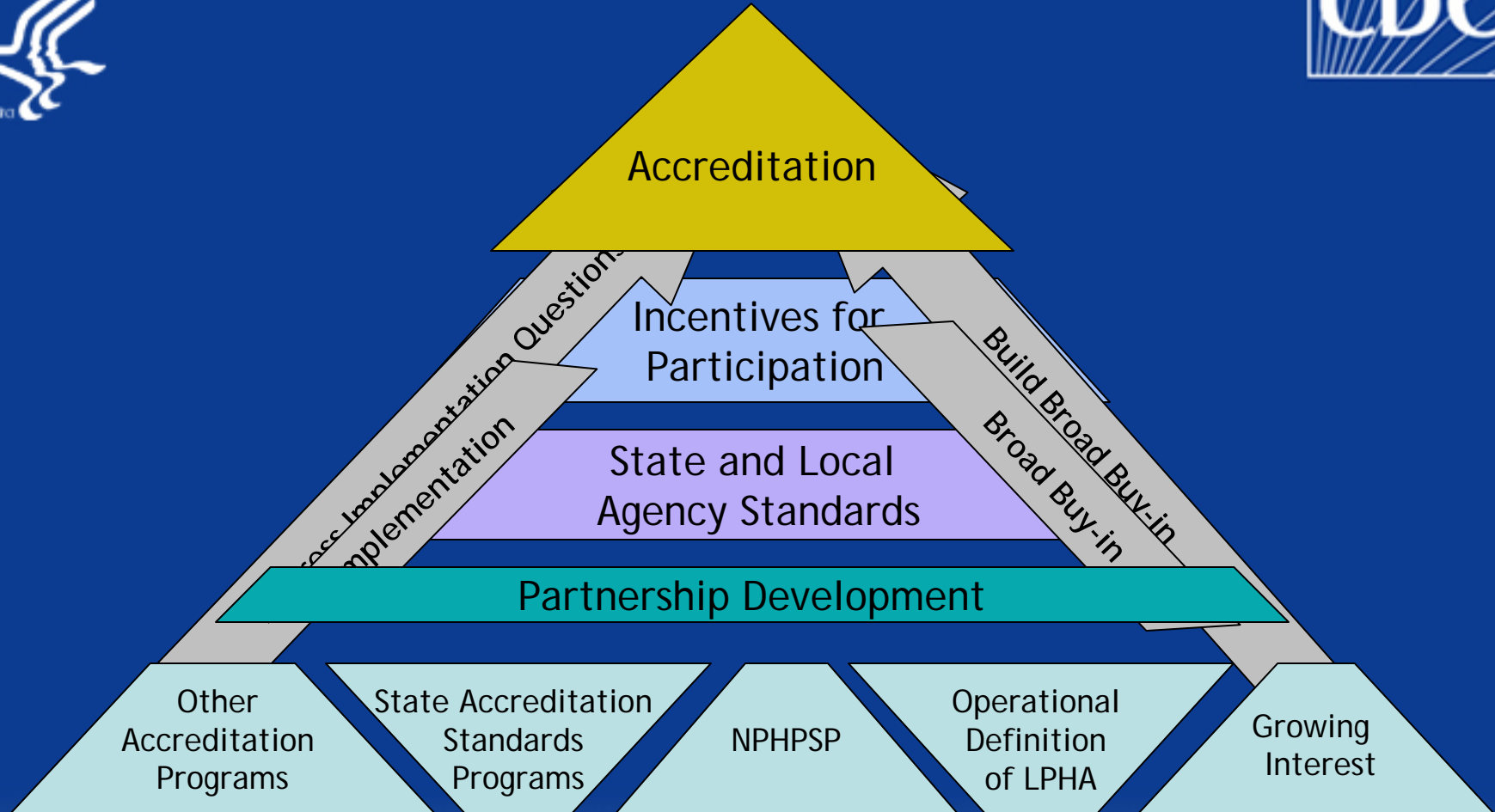
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What Collaborative Strategies Are Needed to Build an Accreditation System?

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Guiding Principles

- ◆ Strengthen public health infrastructure
- ◆ Contribute to quality improvement
- ◆ Minimize any economic burden
- ◆ Achievable regardless of size
- ◆ Practice-driven
- ◆ Voluntary

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National Dialogue on Agency Accreditation

(RWJF sponsored meeting – Dec 15-16, 2004)

Public Health Experience:

- ◆ Local health accreditation is far ahead of state agency accreditation
- ◆ Funding drives most efforts
- ◆ EPHS and NPHPS have influenced efforts

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National Dialogue on Agency Accreditation

- ◆ Leadership is key
- ◆ Semantics matter
- ◆ Workforce qualifications included in many agency certification efforts
- ◆ PH Institutes often accredit agencies
- ◆ No clear vision for a national program

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National Dialogue on Agency Accreditation

Accreditation in Other Sectors:

- ◆ Accreditation holds potential for improving service quality
- ◆ Costs must be weighed against expected benefits

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- ◆ Strong incentives are vital to success
- ◆ Governance should be broad and inclusive
- ◆ Need for evidence-based standards to ensure desired outcomes are achieved

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National Dialogue on Agency Accreditation

Conclusion:

Convene a representative working group to determine whether and how to proceed with developing an accreditation system for state and local public health agencies.

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A New National Effort



"Exploration of Accreditation"

- ◆ Leadership from APHA, ASTHO, NACCHO, NALBOH
- ◆ 14 month process
- ◆ Practice-driven
- ◆ Co-funded by RWJF and CDC
- ◆ Outcome = definitive recommendations regarding the design of the system and feasibility of implementation

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Planning Committee
(APHA, ASTHO, NACCHO, NALBOH)



Steering Committee
Representatives from the Practice Community



Governance & Implementation

Research & Evaluation



Standards

Financing & Incentives

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Timeline



- ◆ August 1 – Start of Project
- ◆ August 31 – Meeting of Planning Committee
- ◆ September 27-28 - Meeting of Steering Committee
- ◆ October 24-28 – Joint meeting of Steering Committee and individual Workgroups
- ◆ July 31, 2006 – Blueprint/Roadmap



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Multi-State Learning Collaborative

RWJF will fund five states already engaged in standards or accreditation activities to explore innovative ideas and provide critical information to the “Exploration of Accreditation” process.

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Questions Regarding *Governance*

- ◆ What options exist for a national system? (e.g. single point of entry, a network of state systems, or some other option?)
- ◆ How would the system be governed? By whom?
- ◆ How would the system be build in consideration of existing state systems?
- ◆ How would the system be implemented?

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Questions Regarding *Standards*

- ◆ What standards exist for state and local agencies and what is their relationship to performance improvement?
- ◆ What process and by whom would standards be developed?
- ◆ Where do you “set the bar?”

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Questions Regarding *Financing and Incentives*

- ◆ How have other state systems been financed?
- ◆ What are the benefits/drawbacks of different financing options?
- ◆ What types of incentives would most encourage state and local participation
- ◆ Is there a good business case for a national accreditation system?



Questions Regarding *Research and Evaluation*

- ◆ What lessons can be learned from existing systems?
- ◆ What literature and evidence exists regarding accreditation and performance improvement?
- ◆ What constitutes sufficient, on-going research to continuously update and modernize the system?
- ◆ Who would pay for this?

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